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LAMBDA

PROUDLY SERVING THE LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1961

Model Parliament in Ottawa inspires students to excel

BY ALEXANDRA TAYLOR
SCIENCE&TECH EDITOR

With four nights and five days in the nation's capital, anything can happen. January 10th marked the beginning of an amazing trip for 140 Laurentian students – a full day in Canada's House of Commons, experiencing a Model Parliament that was bigger and better than ever before.

Laurentian's Model Parliament started in 1993 with the help of three passionate students and their professor, Dr. Rand Dyck. Motivated by the thought of some day holding a position in the real Parliament of Canada, these students worked together to organize an event that has now grown to include over 130 students, a number of professors, and the attention and support of Canada's top news networks.

Supported by a number of local Sudbury corporations, the 2007 Model Parliament received funding from Sudbury Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, Grand and Toy, Laurentian Alumni, the SGA, the Power Corporation of Canada, and INCO, as well as numerous other individual donors. Fundraising and organizing by the LUPSA team began as far back as May of 2006, with most of the work starting in September and continuing right up to the event.

A tour of Parliament was a welcome diversion after the long bus ride, and students finally had the opportunity to see and photograph the Library of Parliament, which had been under repair for over three years. Tour guides also directed students through the Parliament Buildings, giving them the opportunity to take in the incredible architecture and historical artwork that represents Canada's amazing history.

The official 2007 Model Parliament began bright and early on January 11th, with students spending time in the caucus rooms where MPs congregate and discuss. The day began with



Alexandra Taylor / LAMBDA

Kevin Roche speaks on behalf of the Conservatives at the 2007 Model Parliament in Ottawa. 140 Laurentian students attended the annual event, providing them the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Canadian politician.

a welcoming speech from Speaker of the House, Neil McGraw, who is also a Laurentian alumni and former Model Parliament Prime Minister. The opening speeches came next, with the party leaders outlining their opinions on Canada's current political system, as well as offering suggestions about why they believed that their bill should be passed by the Members of the House. Prime Minister Sebastien Perth was joined by Liberal leader Jordan Glass, NDP leader Tessa Currie, Bloq leader Dan Arseneault, and Green leader Luke Norton.

Students were lucky enough to hear both speeches and member's statements from some of Laurentian's most passionate students, and with some humour and sarcasm thrown into the mix, the day went smoothly and everyone who had the opportunity to par-

ticipate expressed their excitement. With speeches that included everything from researched economic statements to statements in support of Canada's seal hunt, the students had the opportunity to practice their public speaking in front of their peers, while at the same time experiencing what MPs deal with every day and learning about how Canada's first-past-the-post political system functions. The Bloq successfully passed their bill for the first time in recent years, and the final vote at the end of the day led to a defeat of the federal Conservatives. Certainly a dramatic finish to a fantastic and inspirational day!

The Laurentian students finished their day in Parliament with a delicious banquet held in Parliament Hill's West Block, and they had the opportunity to discuss the day over drinks. Awards were distributed by the

professors from Sudbury and Barrie for students with the best speeches and statements, as well as those who the administration felt were the best MPs for the day. Awards were also presented to the organizers of the event, including Dr. Rand Dyck. Last but certainly not least, Laurentian University Political Science Association (LUPSA) members including President Kevin Roche were presented with gifts and awards for their work in bringing the entire event together.

Free to do whatever they wished for the remainder of the weekend, some students attended the Alumni Model Parliament held on January 12th, where they had the opportunity to meet with Laurentian alumni, many who now hold positions in Ottawa and within the political sector.

Many students also spent time at the Canadian War Museum, the Museum of

Civilization, and the National Gallery, taking in Canada's incredible history and spending time reflecting on the political education that they had received in the House of Commons.

Of course, it wasn't all hard work – Students also spent time exploring Ottawa's busy nightlife, attending clubs and pubs, as well as doing lots of shopping and dining. Some also found time to head to the Corel Centre for a Senators vs. Canadiens hockey game. Back at the hotel, students spent time writing speeches and meeting new people, as well as occasionally indulging in red wine and other treats. Missing shoes, superhero balconies and Club 511 all became part of the greatest Model Parliament story thus far.

The XXX Hypnotist violates Laurentian with the help of students

BY MATTHEW
DESROSIERS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Tony Lee sets his mind on you, you'd best pray that your friends didn't bring their cameras. In the case of Joshua 'Jova' Hatt, he was not so lucky.

Hatt, a Laurentian student and Residence Advisor (RA) in the Single Student Residence (SSR) was convinced by his friends to attend the hypnotism show on Saturday, January 13th in the Fraser Auditorium.

"I was hypnotized in grade 12, but it was my first time here," said Hatt. "It was absolutely for real. My eyes said he wasn't naked, but my mind said he was naked. You have to forget that you run your body, and let this asian man run your body for the

show."

The show began with a group exercise in which a number of students became hypnotized. Those who fell under Lee's spell were brought up on the stage and were subjected to strange and unusual pranks at the hands of the hypnotist. From making his subjects think they were extremely hot to having them believe that their private parts were speaking to them, the scenario's were extreme and hilarious all at the same time. At one point, Lee had two members, one being Hatt, make comments about his racial background.

"I am only embarrassed about the racial slurs that I made," said Hatt. "I have no problem looking like a dink, but I'm not a racist."

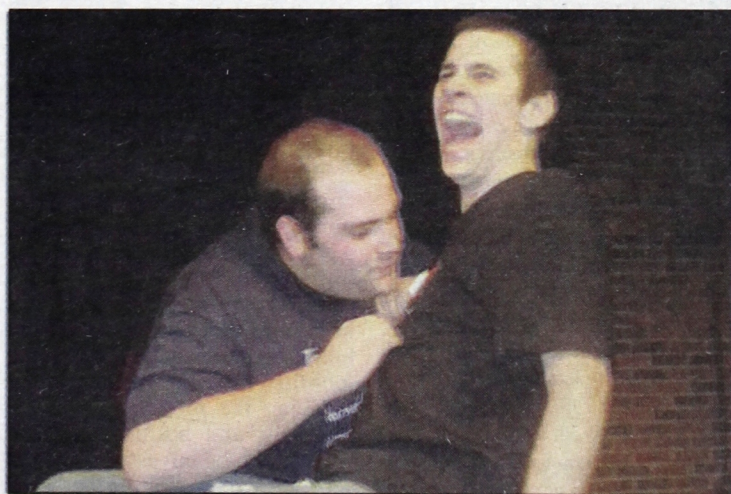
Before the night was over some clothes came off, some

people shared their very loud and no longer private orgasmic screams over the microphone, and the audience was shocked numerous times, much to their delight.

The show itself was very crude and obviously rude, but as Hatt points out, that is no secret heading in to see the show.

"If you don't like hearing the f-word, the sign says its XXX so you know before you get in there," Hatt said. "It's definitely not a show for a 10 year old."

The show is quickly becoming an event that students look forward to each year. Those who have never seen the show are urged by their friends to take in the hilariously raunchy event. Even if some debate the reality of hypnotism, no one can deny that the laughs are real.



Mairwen Court / CONTRIBUTOR

Joshua 'Jova' Hatt licks whip cream off of the chest of a volunteer while under the influence of hypnosis at the hands of Tony Lee, the XXX Hypnotist.

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Include your full name and student number. Please keep articles to a maximum of 700 words. Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist, for length, or legal purposes. Letters of a harassing or slanderous nature will be dealt with by the proper authorities.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Support post-secondary education! SGA/AGE calls upon students to help in the fight for affordable tuition fees

BY LUKE NORTON

SGA/AGE PRESIDENT

The one comment I have heard the most this year is the comment that money is tight. Certainly, initiatives like the Ben Avery addition and the U-Pass have added to the fees that we pay, but is that really the reason that the student food banks are being so heavily used, and that more and more students are relying on bursaries and financial loans from banks and the government? Surely, you say, there must be a reason that \$100 has become a breaking point for so many students.

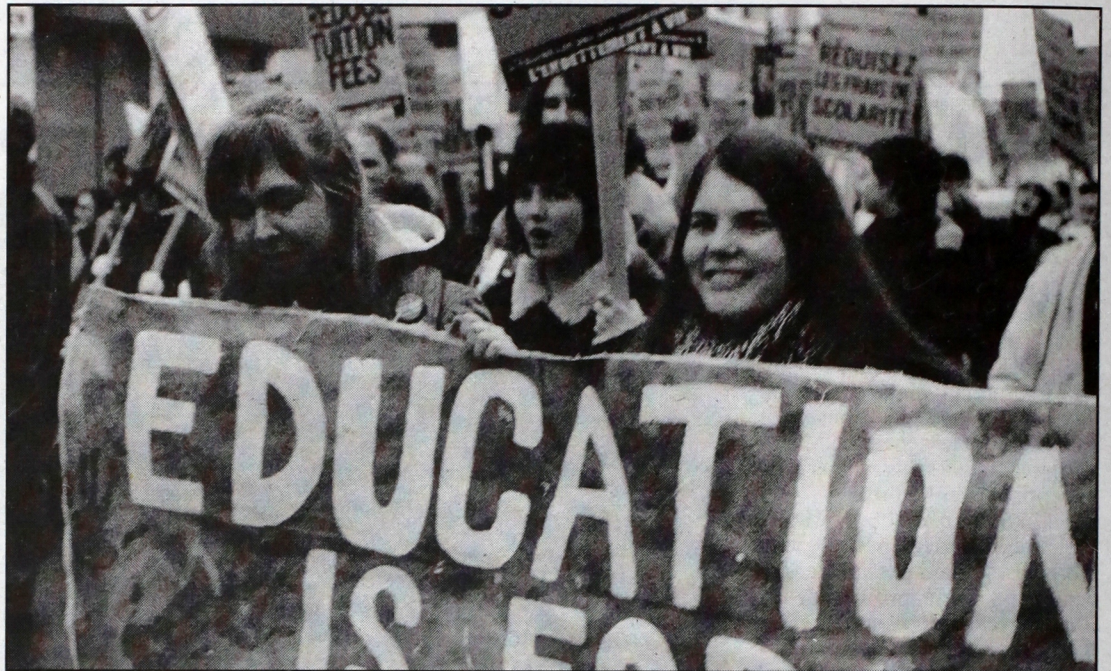
There is... and don't call me Shirley.

Did you know that over the last 15 years tuition has increased at four times the rate of inflation? At the same time as the costs have been rising, the government has been lowering per student investment towards the lowest levels in all of North America. As Ontario post secondary students, you are paying an average of \$190 more this year compared to last, and this is only the first of four years of accumulative increases. By the end, tuition will have been raised as much as 36%, and that's off a \$4,500 starting point! Good luck if you are a grad student or are in a professional program, because it is even worse for you.

They've raised the fees because they claim it will increase quality. Well consider this: for the 2006-2007 school years, tuition for first-year med school students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine was around \$17,150. At McGill University in Quebec, where the government invests in education for its citizens, it was \$6,084. I don't think there are many who would argue that McGill offers a second-rate education.

It seems to me that we are heading in the wrong direction. The days of getting a job out of high school are pretty much gone, and it is beginning to look more and more like part-time contract work will be our norm. Without the job security this puts in jeopardy, chances are that we will move around a lot career-wise, and having that piece of paper that gets you in the door is becoming more and more important. College and university is the new high school, and a shift in recognition needs to be made.

If having a strong economy built upon an educated work force and healthy culture of entrepreneurship is something that we recognize as important, then as a society we should be investing in post secondary education. If having well-rounded citizens, with complete faculty of mind, is something we view as worthwhile, then we should be investing in post secondary education. If we recognize the truth in studies that show that education promotes social equity and mobility, while dramatically reducing the pressure on social programs and health care, then we should be investing in post secondary education. If that's not reason enough for you, then you will find little to agree with in the fact that the United Nations has declared access to education as



Luke Norton / CONTRIBUTOR

Laurentian students march downtown during a 2005 tuition demonstration.

one of the fundamental rights for every citizen of the world.

I recognize that these views on reduced tuition are sometimes dismissed as the whining of privileged youth, or are argued away by comparing the costs of education here to the costs of education at ivy league schools in the U.S. Well, guess what? I didn't need to pay \$50,000 a year to go to Harvard to see that those levels fees will provide students from lower income families with nothing but a wall. It's ridiculous to compare our education system to one from a country that no one in the world views as (anywhere near) a bastion for educating the masses. If we looked instead to many of the Scandinavian countries, or to Scotland, we'd see countries where tuition is free. Even in Austria, which has begun charging tuition, the cost per semester is only about \$560, for a yearly total of \$1,020, which actually isn't that much more than the \$870 it costs to take a single class here at Laurentian.

Sure, maybe this is just the ranting of a leftist student leader. I can not disagree with people when they point out that we are only paying a fraction of a University's operating budget (actually that fraction is getting pretty close to 50%, which I think will technically make us the major shareholders). I know this fact in the same way I know that universities, because they can't get the funding they need from government, are turning to big multi-national corporations for sponsorships. They rename their buildings or bring in for-profit groups like Follet's and Aramark to provide the services they can't afford to provide. They even open their doors with welcome arms to the corporate financing of research. I don't know about you, fellow student, but I can't wait for the day when the ethics classes for Bio-Med students are taught in the newly renovated Pfizer Centre for Ethics and Integrity in Research.

Does sarcasm come across in print?

I'll freely admit that this is all getting me pretty pissed off. I'm \$12,000 in debt after just two years of OSAP, and I'm one of the lucky ones who lives at home

and doesn't have to pay vehicle costs. What am I supposed to do when my children will be old enough for college or university? Should I hope that my children are gifted enough for full scholarships? Should I buy lottery tickets everyday and hope I get lucky? Hell, I'm too ugly to prostitute myself, and I don't think I could get enough for one of my kidneys to cover the bill. I know it sounds like I'm joking, but I really am not. In Windsor there is a strip club that offers free tuition to female students that sign year-long contracts. When students are stripping to pay for university, something has gone terribly wrong.

Something needs to be done about the lack of government investment in education, and I propose that you and I do something about it together.

The death of affordable post secondary education is coming, and I, for one, aim to rail against it with a little bit of jazz. On Thursday, the 25th of January, you might see a funeral procession walk through campus draped in the colours of mourning. We'll be marching through the campus with a coffin loaded with student debt, and taking it right into Minister Rick Bartolucci's office. We'll also be holding a concert in the Pub that night, so try and catch up with us at some point in the day. That's just the warm-up; next comes the cool down. From the week of January 30 to February 6, students from Laurentian will be camping outside, 24 hours a day, to help raise awareness of the need to (ahem) freeze the fees. We'll be down in Founder's Square, so stop by any time and give us a supporting cheer (or just come and make sure we haven't gone delirious from the cold).

On Tuesday, February 6th, we'll be holding a local day of action. We'll have buses leaving the turnaround by the Great Hall at 2pm, which will take students to Bell Park for a rally march to downtown. We're doing some last logistical work as you read this, and we hope to be able to provide everyone that comes out a free dinner and some free music. The next day, bright and early at 6:45am, we'll be leaving

on buses for Toronto, where we will meet up with thousands of students from the GTA and from schools all over Ontario, for one of the biggest demonstrations in student history. We'll be arriving at U of T at noon, then we'll be marching across the street to Queen's Park, and letting the government and the media know that we think education is too important to be made unaffordable. We even found out this weekend that Prime Minister Harper will be in town that night, and we may just take a wander over to the First Minister's Meeting and encourage them to adopt a federal post secondary education act! It won't be all slogans and sit-ins either; if you do attend the rally in Toronto, you will get four hours free time, and we've ensured academic amnesty for those Laurentian students who wish to participate, so you won't be penalized for missing classes.

I really do hope that you'll come out for as many of these events as you can. In Quebec, the provincial government several years ago tried to cut the amount of funding going to student grants and the students went on strike. What did they get for it? They got every single penny put back into the grant program and they made sure that the government made arrangements to ensure they didn't lose their year because of the strike. We're asking you to come spend some time outside with us over the next little while and help us show the Ontario government that students are united in their desire for affordable, accessible, quality education for all. So if you want to get involved, stop by the SGA or AEF offices, or email me at sgapresident@laurentian.ca.

I'll leave you with this: in his time Plato criticized the sophists for charging tuition, which he viewed as unworthy of a teacher. The Roman writer and politician Cicero wrote that the Academy in Athens was attended by the likes of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Not too shabby for a school that had no tuition, no budget, no powerpoint-spectacular-smart-rooms, and was located in a park also used for gymnastics.

OPINIONS

Homophobia: the fears driving hatred

BY THE HARVEY MILK PROJECT

Hate kills. If you doubt this, Google the name "Matthew Shepard" who left to die in a distant nearly frozen field in Wyoming, after being savagely beaten. He was barely recognizable but for a small section of his face that had been washed by tears. Homophobia touches us all, whether we know it or not. Homophobia usually comes with its friends, Sexism, Racism, Religion based hate, find one find them all. Is there homophobia on our campus? There are three known incidents reported (imagine the non-reported ones?) this semester. Let this be an invitation to all of us University students to join the fight against

hate.

Homophobia is the hatred and fear of Homosexuals, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender Persons. But in fact it is much closer to home. It also includes the fear of being thought of as a Homosexual, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Person. Laurentian student James was having a good day last week until a classmate asked him if he was gay. "Do I ****ing look gay? Do I look gay to you?" he answered in a very angry 'manly' manner. I wonder why so much anger? James is most likely a Heterosexual, and does not consider himself homophobic, but his extreme angered response at being thought of as a gay person does in fact confirm he is homophobic. Fear is diametrically

opposed to freedom. Hate enslaves. How would you feel if people presumed that you are gay? Compare this reaction if you will to being asked if you are Spanish or Italian. Certainly you would not be upset by this question, and with a smile correct the person that you are Canadian. Why such a difference in response? Society imposes its pressures on you. Have fun with the following 'experiment'; tell three of your 'good' friends that you are gay! You may lose those friendships! Hate is just a cheap, easily accessible emotion. It does not require much thinking. But I have a feeling that you dear Gentle Readers are way above this non-creative emotion if you consider that Gay, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered

Persons make up 20% of the general population. Quick math here, 8,000 students, a rainbow army 1,800 strong right here at L.U.! The human cost of homophobia is unfortunately high. Here are some stats:

Consider the following;

Students who describe themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered are five times more likely to miss school because of feeling unsafe. (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "Anti-Gay/Lesbian Victimization," New York, 1984)

28% are forced to drop out. (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "Anti-Gay/Lesbian Victimization," New York, 1984)

The vast majority of victims of anti-lesbian/gay violence, possibly more than 80%, never report the incident, often due to fear of being "outed." (New York Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project Annual Report, 1996)

85% of teachers oppose integrating lesbian, gay and bisexual themes in their curricula. (Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth: Report of the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, 1993)

75% of people committing hate crimes are under age 30, one in three is under 18, and some of the most pervasive anti-gay violence occurs in schools. (New York Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Report, 1996)

Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are at a four times higher risk for suicide than their straight peers. (Gibson P., LCSW, "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide," Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989)

A survey of 191 employers revealed that 18% would fire, 27% would refuse to hire and 26% would refuse to promote a person they perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual. (Schatz and O'Hanlan, "Anti-Gay Discrimination in Medicine: Results of a National Survey of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Physicians," San Francisco, 1994)

Streets and schools become the silent witness to youths being bullied and beaten, which rarely goes reported out of fear of more beatings (possibly from home). Job insecurity and Job loss plagues the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered) Adult. GLBT communities (On campus and off campus) are refused the vital support and funding needed to address pressing issues. GLBT Individuals most likely face incredible challenges in order to build their futures. Declare today as the Official First Day of your fight against this Cancer of the Soul. This imposed homophobia very often takes an even more serious turn - Lateral Homophobia. Lateral homophobia happens when the afflicted individual begins to accept consciously or unconsciously the negative messages received since childhood (as you may suspect, I will cover this in a future article). Just remember, that this minority group is one of the few minorities where His/Her parents/family is NOT part of their minority group! Let me clarify this. If you are of Asian descent, chances are member of your family is of Asian descent as well etc. So you

can bet that in very few instances does the GLBT individual get a support system early on in life.

And finally an even more conniving form of Homophobia is the lack of inclusion. Hmmm what? The lack of inclusion in life's processes. How many TV commercials have you seen in the past 12 months with two men holding hands, two men kissing? How many times are you presented with well adjusted Transgendered people in the movies that are not there for simply comedic or overly dramatic value? This lack of inclusion sends a message - "Not Wanted, thank You". This phenomenon can be seen by the non-inclusion of sexual orientation (sexual predisposition) in elementary/secondary schools' anti-harassment policies, even less in their curriculum. The lack of inclusion extends even to the Police Department as there is no liaison officer to the GLBT community.

Now kittens, the good news is there are lots you can do to stop this hatred!

Don't make "gay" jokes; you never know whom you are telling it to???

Review your expressions for example: "That shirt is sooo gay." Well the shirt may have been in the closet-but certainly is not "gay". But its deeper meaning means that GAY is equal to ugly, loser, useless. For us this expression is very equal to the infamous "N" word. Do correct these when heard.

Report offensive Graffiti, on campus we had homophobic graffiti that went unreported for over two months, to be reported by me. The tragic point of this is that this was right inside a busy bus shelter! It is easy to estimate that hundreds have seen it, and passively forgot it.

Get help if you see someone being harassed, attacked.

Review your beliefs and notice how you have bought into pernicious messages.

If you see it in the media, promptly write a letter to the appropriate person/organization. Do not be silent.

Homophobia is a direct descendant of Patriarchy. GLBT people "break" the rules established. Broken rules threaten the patriarchal dictatorship of established roles. We can easily conclude that Homophobia tries to re-establish the set order of "things as they were". If these rules are broken the sexual outlaws are punished by being beaten, getting fired from work, being cut off from their family, loss of security and the list goes on. Take an uncompromising look at homophobia and Zap it wherever it emerges. Homophobia kills.

The following poem influenced a similar poem by Pastor Martin Niemöller (1892-1984):

When they came for the Jews and the Blacks, I turned away as I was neither.

When they came for the Writers and the Thinkers and the Radicals and the Protestors, I turned away, as I was neither.

When they came for the Gays, and the Minorities, and the Utopians, and the Dancers, I turned away, as I was none of these.

And when they came for me, I turned around and around, and there was nobody left to save me...

A "second chance" at LU

BY PAUL CHISLETT
CONTRIBUTOR

When I finished high school at eighteen, I went to work full-time. Three years later I was telling people that I thought I'd work some more and then maybe go back to school. I remember one co-worker telling me that once I was in for five years, I'd be in for life. Well, thirty years later, here I am at Laurentian. There is a lot to be said about working for a couple of years before university - but thirty years! Maybe that is pushing things.

I am a so-called mature student at fifty and in all my working years I have never felt that I fit in as well as I feel I do now. For the first month or so in my first year, I kept shaking my head thinking, Man! I'm like thirty years older than everyone else. I got involved in a club at Huntington, and I soon learned I was the one with a hang-up about age. I suppose I am the poster boy of what it means to be on the other side of middle age. I don't purport to have any more wisdom or experience than anyone else I meet on campus. After some thought, I have decided that if my life experience has allowed me some kind of insight, it is that I am aware of my shortcomings and more importantly, I am accepting of who I am - warts and all.

I went to work in 1974 - a time that seems like it belongs to another world. I was shaped, in large part, by the positivism of the 1960's and 70's. Technology and democracy - particularly a democracy shaped by the recognition of left-of-centre values - were going to liberate people from poverty, drudgery and human rights abuses. In short, the world would be more egalitarian.

he Cold War held a so-called balance of terror which contained the excesses of men like - oh, say George Bush. The Cold War has not been adequately studied yet because we are still living in its shadow, but suffice to say for now that that time represents a special kind of insanity because it seemed so normal to live under the "nuclear umbrella". All in all, and discounting the threat of thermonuclear annihilation, (yeah, I'm being wry with a touch of ironic silliness), it was a time of optimism for the future and trust in our ability as humans to manage our technology to cre-

ate a better world - after all, we had landed on the moon without blowing anyone up!

So, more about me. I grew up as an average kid in a Northern Ontario city - Sudbury. It was possible to go from an average grade in high school to a full time job. I started work at Bell Canada. From transport drivers to telephone installers; from storeroom attendants to operators; and from linemen to floor cleaners, we were all Bell employees first, and of course, there was an unwritten hierarchy as to who was more valuable. If I had to describe the culture at Bell, I would call it a people culture. Whatever new technology was implemented, people - technicians and clerical staff with years of experience - could shape the processes making the changes work.

I went from several occupations in Bell without any real life plan, changing jobs as my interests changed. I learned a lot and I am still amazed because, by nature, I am NOT technically inclined. For the last sixteen years I was a Cable Repairman, which is really a jack-of-all trades. Everyday could be quite different from the last; out on a rural road in a snowstorm one day, and in a manhole (confined space) downtown the next. During the 1990's, I awoke to the world around me, and while that may make me a slow learner, I sure made up for 'lost time.' Technological change promised a new way of doing business and Bell executives became seduced around creating a communications conglomerate from Mexico to Canada. The old culture was destroyed and there was no input from employees as to how change could be implemented. I became involved with the union and was president of the local for three years during a lot of tumultuous change. I became energized, radicalized and driven to do something to answer back to a world increasingly preoccupied with profit and power. I wrote a column for Northern Life newspaper from 1995 to 1997. I ran for the NDP in 1999 provincially; and in 2000, federally. Whatever I was in 1974, I had leapt into the new world with both feet, not grounded spiritually or mentally. I burned out and just accepted that I would be working in a place which itself was culturally turned inside out.

Most significantly, I learned

about myself and consequently asked a lot of questions such as; can I stay here and be happy? What if I had gone on in school? I had always read and thought about what I had read. I had written about what I thought, and was published locally. In 2004, as the yearning for meaning in my life grew stronger, and as if by divine providence, Bell was further inclined to cut its payroll. The company offered a package designed to lure those with thirty-plus years to take an early retirement. Most that took it were in their mid-fifties and were already planning to go in a few years. But I was forty-nine. I had young children; I was divorced with child-care payments, so how could I ever take this? It was decision time - stay for another ten or fifteen years and then what; or take this package, go to university and find real meaning in my life.

So here I am, in the second semester of my second year at Laurentian. You'll know me by the goofy smile on my face because I absolutely thrive here at Laurentian. My experience here is a gift, because it is a second chance. I do well academically, I work in the Writing Assistance office and I am a peer tutor. I am intent on taking in as much of the university experience as I can. Second chances don't come along very often, but they do come and all one has to do is answer the call. Having less money is scary and so I am able to relate to other students who are facing huge loans and have scarce funds themselves.

When I look around at all of my fellow students, I sometimes wonder, in twenty years, when I am seventy(!), how you will all be doing and if you will have been able to realize your dreams and are making the world a better place. Those of you I have met are light years ahead of me when I was twenty or so.

If I could presume to offer any advice it's this: don't worry too much, and believe it or not, you have more time than you may think. The professors are gifts in their knowledge and commitment. Above all, I know it's never too late; that age is just a number and mistakes in life are doors to second chances. See you in class!

Paul Chislett is a Communication Studies student at Laurentian. pchislett@sympatico.ca

COLUMNS

Sustainable Tips: Conserve water

TIP: Conserve Water

REASON: Think about this: the overall amount of water on our planet has remained the same for two billion years. This means that we continue to reuse and recycle the water that our ancestors used and our ancestor's ancestors used and our... (you get the picture). All water that comes into our homes must first be processed by expensive treatment systems in order to make it safe. That means money, chemicals, time and labour are all used to produce the smallest drip that comes from your faucet. (Random fact: a slow drip from a faucet can waste as much as 4 baths of water per year). By conserving water you are helping to preserve the quality of the water for the generations of people to come (not to mention saving money). Water is an essential global resource and it is up to each of us to use it efficiently.

HOW TO:

In the Laundry Room:

a) Wash only full loads of laundry. (This will not only help save water but it will also reduce

monthly water bills and/or save treasured laundry quarters)

b) If your washer has an adjustable water-level indicator, set the dial to use only as much water as you need. Use the shortest cycle possible for washing your clothes.

In The Kitchen:

a) When hand-washing dishes, don't run the water continuously. Wash them in a partially filled sink, and then rinse them quickly under the tap.

b) Only fill the kettle with the water you need. If everybody did this, we could save enough electricity to run all the street lighting in the whole country. Apparently. Whoever figured out this statistic should get out more. (Or maybe they can't, because the lights in their street don't work.)

In The Bathroom:

a) When brushing your teeth, turn off the water while you are actually brushing, instead of running it continuously. Letting it run wastes up to 9 big Nalgene's of water or 26,000 litres of water per family, per year. This means your street alone could fill an

Olympic sized swimming pool each year. Which wastes huge amounts of water and is a bit silly - it's like having the toilet flush the whole time you're on it.

b) And speaking of the toilet... by placing a weighted plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank you can reduce water use by about 20 percent.

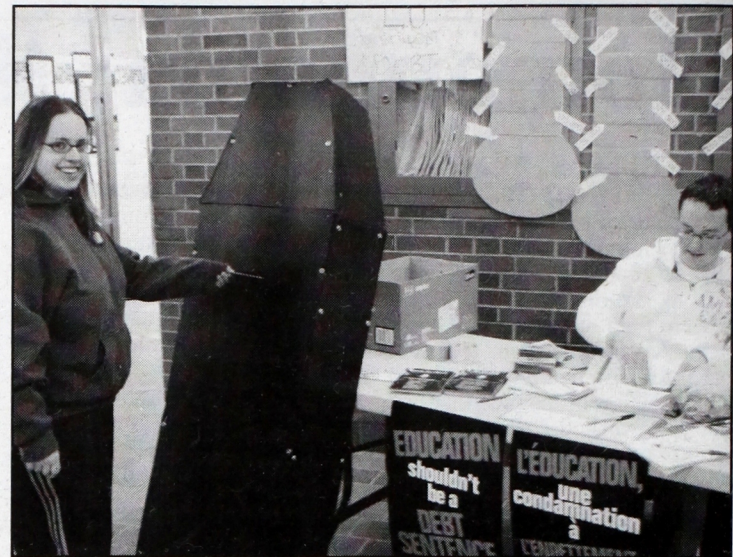
If you like this tip, check out:

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Environment Canada
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Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

Manon Lajeunesse (right) slides more student debt into the coffin as her volunteer partner Robert Beauchamp tallies up the total debt accumulated to date. The coffin is part of a protest put together by the AEF and SGA/AGE to collect fake money representing student debt, put it in a coffin and hold a funeral service. The funeral procession begins today and will bring students to the doors of Rick Bartolucci with a coffin containing \$6,885,000 worth of Laurentian University student debt.

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COLUMNS

Patterson's Unclassifieds: Let's talk about Aramark

By Sarah Patterson

Welcome to the third edition of my article; Patterson's Unclassifieds! This section is where I pick a topic I feel is important to Laurentian University students and get your opinion on it. I do this via e-mail and in-person interviews. If you would like to have your opinion heard/contribute to the next article you can e-mail me at sz_patterson@laurentian.ca. E-mail me any ideas you have about topics for the article or ask about the next issue to see if you can voice your opinion on the next subject.

This week a reader (yes, I have readers) e-mailed me his opinion on Aramark food. I decided that although this was a topic similar to the Tim Hortons issue, there was enough difference to make a good article for it. Although I do risk being egged by the Aramark company, I have to say that this is an important issue for me being a student paying to eat the food they are selling. So I asked students three questions; How do you feel about the food at Aramark? How would you feel about different food options and what types of things would you like to see? How do you feel about the quality of service? Thank you to Aaron Gervais for this week's topic.

Aaron Gervais:

It is important to realise that all food services on campus are regulated by Aramark, including Tim Hortons. Under Aramark's newly extended contract, no other food providers, or even student run businesses, may serve the Laurentian University community, and thus all food served on campus must be provided by Aramark. This greatly limits the competition on campus, and thus improvements in price and services are not seen as critical. Services that reflect student's demands for such things as healthy alternatives, reduced prices, fair trade and organic products, and environmental awareness are not being sufficiently offered. I believe there is a need for change. Students, as customers of Laurentian University, should have opportunities for input and be included in the decisions that affect the services that will be offered to them, as opposed to the Administration alone deciding what would be best for students. This would greatly benefit the Laurentian University community as a whole.

Anonymous:

Considering they have a monopoly on the student population, you'd imagine their prices would be dramatically lower than if it were filled with individually owned shops like Subway or something, buuut ... um, it's not. Sure [I'd like more food options], though there's really not much more they could offer that I can think of. Honestly, I think I'd rather them focus a whole lot more on quality than quantity. The workers are usually pretty sincere, they're all really nice. My only problem with them is since the Mr. Sub got removed; the ladies that work there don't seem to have any experience or training with making subs. They really need Mr. Sub back, or give Subway a freaking contract. If Subway was there I'd probably eat lunch at school every day. Now I just avoid it as much as I can.

Michel St-Laurent:

I like [Aramark], especially the food available at the deli, however it would be nice if there was more selection and "healthier" alternatives. A subway would be nice! Also a salad bar wouldn't hurt (I know they sell some salads but something fresher and a little variety would be awesome). The ladies who work there are really nice (In my opinion and experience) and are always pleasant. The only thing I would say that is the problem with the company is the price of their food. Considering students are their main consumers, you would think that keeping costs down would be their main goal but this doesn't always seem to be the case as most people I know find the caf food a little pricey.

LOCS hosts Dodgeball Tournament

The most exciting news to hit the LOCS article since last year is the Dodge ball tournament we will be holding in February. That's right, on Sunday, February the 11th LOCS will be hosting a Dodge ball Tournament! It will be held in the Alphonse Raymond Gym and will start at 10 a.m. The teams will be made up of ten students each and it is one dollar per student to join.

What kind of teams can join? Any type of team! Get your residence friends involved and represent whichever floor you live on. Or get a bunch of members of a club you are in to join and ten of you can represent that club. It doesn't have to be something you have in common, it can just be random people wanting to play dodge ball, that'll work too!

What else is happening? We should be ready to announce a formal that'll be happening in early march soon so get ready for that. That's about all the information I have for you for this week, thank you my loyal fans, for reading!

-Sarah Patterson
LOCS President



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N.B. degree holders are **NOT** eligible for this competition

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3. What is the most significant event of the last ten years? Why?



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COLUMNS

Cheryl Powell sits in the 'Hot Seat'

Cheryl Powell is the co-manager of the Pug Downunder campus bar. She sits down in the Hot Seat across the bar and serves me a glass of water as she gets ready to answer ten questions.

Matt: What is it about the pub that makes it so popular with students?

Cheryl: Well it's a student owned and operated bar, and because of that we keep our prices at a reasonable level so the students can afford it. And it's a good place to go when you need to relax on campus.

M: If you could transform the pub into any kind of theme bar, what would it be and why?

C: Oh, well everyone who works for me knows that I would turn it into a country bar. (laughs) I love country, it's all I listen to. I was the one who started having the country nights here last year, so, it would definitely be a country bar full time. (laughs) It would annoy a few people but I'd be happy.

M: If your arch nemesis walked into the bar, what would you serve him/her?

C: Do I have to serve them...can't I just deny them? So that would be like the worst drink I've ever had in my entire life, umm...cement mixer. If anyone has ever had a cement mixer they know how bad it is. It's Bailey's and Lime juice...it's

gross. It's a good 19th birthday shot.

M: What is the strangest/funniest thing you've ever seen at the Pub?

C: I don't know...strange things don't really happen to me very often. Umm, I had to kick a girl out of her on St-Patrick's day at 1 in the afternoon. Her boyfriend had to carry her out of here like a fireman over his shoulder.

M: As co-manager of the Pub, what responsibilities do you have to students?

C: Well, we both have basically the same responsibilities, to make this a safe environment first of all for students to come. To keep students aware of the fact that just because they're not living at home anymore doesn't mean that they can come and drink as much as they want, which is typical of what students think. Basically we're here to run a safe pub which is why we have to be so strict.

M: What is your favourite part of the job?

C: I love my job. You know what, it's a fun place to work, I work good hours, but I like working in the bar business. Its probably the most fun job I've ever had. People are relaxed and here to have a good time. Its fun.

M: Students want to know what sort of bribes you accept

in return for VIP privileges?

C: (laughs) None, none. We only run VIP for a staff basically now, so you gotta get to know the staff. I guess that's the only way to bribe you way in here.

M: You tend to work days more than nights, so can you tell us which profs like to enjoy a pint or two...or three before class?

C: You know what, I don't see a lot during the day. But Friday afternoon I see the same ones every week. There's a big engineering, geology, geography contingent...those three faculties I see on Friday afternoons.

M: Last year the Pub was shut down for a month due to a violation of its license. Have you made any changes this year to prevent mistakes like that from happening again?

C: Well, first of all we have a new night manager, which came from above us, to be a little more strict with the rules we already have in place. The only other major change we've made is to cut down our sign in privileges for Laurentian students to one sign in per student. But changing the night manager is what I think made the big difference.

M: How has your first year as co-manager of the Pub Downunder gone so far, and what are you hoping to accomplish during this last part of the year?



Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

Cheryl Powell, Co-Manager of the Pub Downunder campus bar. She helped to get the pub back up and running after a violation of their license closed the bar down for a month.

C: Umm, well as I already said I love my job. Co-managing hasn't changed that much for me between what I'm doing now and what I was doing before, but what we're trying to do this year is just get more events up and running in the Pub. We're trying to do something every Friday

night, whether it be Karaoke or Open Mic. We want people to come in more often, you know, we want to see the pub fill up more than one night a week. So we wanna run events that students will want to participate in.

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LFC Hosts Open Mic Night

BY AMY FISHER

CONTRIBUTOR

Are you looking for a way to celebrate Ground Hog Day 2007? Here is one suggestion that has nothing to do with rodent shadows or Bill Murray but should be fun nonetheless. Friday, February 2nd at 8 p.m. the Laurentian Christian Fellowship will be hosting an open mic night at the Huntington Social Center. The open mic night is being done in place of LCF's annual concert event Student Hope On Campus (a.k.a. S.H.O.C.). The switch from concert to coffee house was made so that students would have the opportunity to share their own favourite or original (or both) songs, poems, and stories of hope – and they don't have to be Christian based. This night is open to anybody and everybody who wishes to share their talents. If you are a first time performer this is a chance to stretch beyond your comfort zone. If you are interested in performing e-mail lcf@laurentian.ca or just show up at Huntington Social Center at 8 p.m. on February 2nd. If you want to spend an evening listening to some of L.U.'s talent, visiting with friends and eating yummy goodies you are invited to this free (yes free) event as well. And whether or not we see you there, Happy Ground Hog Day!

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CAMPUS NEWS

Getting it Write: Using the Apostrophe

CONTRIBUTED
Pity the poor apostrophe—how would you feel if more and more people ignored you? Especially when there's no need; what follows are a few simple rules to guide you in using the apostrophe for the possessive case.

First of all, what is the possessive case? Put simply, it is a way of using the apostrophe to indicate that someone owns something. Luckily, the rules these days are much less complex than they once were, which means you have no excuse for not using them correctly! Here

goes; we begin with the two basic rules:

If a word ends in 's' and you need to make it possessive, simply add an apostrophe: boys' books; girls' pens; leaves' veins. Note that all these words are plural; this rule also works for singular words that end in 's': gas' odour; success' price; actress' role.

The second rule also works for both singular and plural nouns: if a word doesn't end in 's' and you need to make it possessive, add 's: woman's hat; women's hats; men's cars; oxen's hoofs; babies' wails; students'

frustrations; nurses' uniforms.

These two rules will cover most of what you need, but there are a few fine points:

Never add an apostrophe to a possessive pronoun; they are born possessive and need no help from you! Words such as his, hers, theirs, ours, and yours fall into this category.

To make an abbreviation possessive, simply add 's: The UN's work in Africa has not been adequate. The US's policy in Iraq has recently been changed.

Here's a tricky one: some phrases that have to do with time are also possessive: yesterday's concert; three weeks' holiday; one week's vacation; a month's leave; two months' interest. (Note that the singular words use 's, while the plural ones have s'—sound familiar?)

Any compound noun, such as father-in-law, always adds the possessive at the end: father-in-law's home; this is true even when the compound noun forms its plural in the middle: fathers-in-law's.

One more: when you refer to a couple owning something together, make only the second name possessive, as in Tom and Jane's house. When each person owns something separately, however, make both of them possessive: Tom's and Jane's houses.

The more you use these, of course, the easier it becomes—Good Luck!

J.N. Desmarais library prepares to conduct University wide survey

BY ASHLEY THOMSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Would you like the library open 24/7?

Do we have enough computers? Electronic resources? Books?

Do you understand how to use the facility without getting frustrated?

As we plan for the future of the library at Laurentian University, it is important that we understand our users' perceptions and expectations so that we can provide the services they need. On February 1 students and faculty will receive an email providing them with a link to a library service quality survey. By responding to the survey, they will provide essential information for us to use in planning for the future. The survey is part of a

North American effort led by the Association of Research Libraries to measure library service quality and identify best practices.

The LibQUAL survey will be running throughout the month of February.

For those who are interested, there is a chance to win an iPod—all you have to do is include your e-mail account. This is a feature of the survey wherever it is run, and no e-mail will be used in any way other than to pick and contact the winner.

When the survey has been completed and we have analyzed the results, we will shame them with the Laurentian community.

We anticipate this will be the first of a series of surveys we will conduct every year or so from now on to see if we are improving what we do.

Correction in Lambda

In Lambda vol.45, NO.07, "Social Work Program in Shambles", there is a correction to be made regarding the content of the piece. In no way do the circumstances described in the article reflect upon the French or Native stream of the Social Work program. These pro-

grams are completely independent of the English stream, which is experiencing the described issues. Lambda would like to apologize to those who misunderstood the article and were offended due to a lack of clarity on our part.



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CAMPUS NEWS

Incontri helps feed the homeless

BY DANIELE MUSCOLINO

CONTRIBUTOR

Over 25 members of Laurentian University's Italian Club, Incontri, volunteered one whole week of hours to The Samaritan Centre in Downtown Sudbury, just prior to Christmas. The students came together to help the local soup kitchen every single day for one whole week as they chopped vegetables, served food, washed dishes and monitored guests.

The Samaritan Centre is a non-profit organization that supports the homeless and less fortunate people of the City of Greater Sudbury. It is a place where the needy people of the city can gather to eat, shower, do their laundry, use the phone, and stay warm during Sudbury's cold winter months.

Members of the club who volunteered, which included both students and professors, were humbled by the experience of working with the needy of the city and many were surprised by the level of poverty in our own

community.

"This was a perfect opportunity for our Italian Club to give back to the community at Christmas time," said Silvano Costantini, Vice-President of Incontri, "we are all extremely grateful for the hours donated by the members of our club."

The idea came when Incontri dropped off extra food remaining from the club's Wine & Cheese Culture Night in November to The Samaritan Centre. The Centre explained that they were in desperate need for volunteers over the month of December.

This prompted the Executive of Incontri to make a quick decision to send the members of the club in to help out as much as they could.

"We are one of the biggest clubs at Laurentian, so we wanted to use our resources and help those less fortunate – especially during Christmas," said Costantini. "And, we didn't want to do it for just one day, we wanted to go bigger, we wanted to volunteer for one whole week."

The members of Incontri

volunteered every day during the week of December 11 – 15, helping in any way they could during a very busy time for The Samaritan Centre.

While the Executive was worried what type of response they would get from the members of the club, since they chose a week during the exam schedule, they were overwhelmed at the result.

"I think the response shows where our commitment to each other is," explains Costantini, "we all gave of ourselves to help those less fortunate, even when the time wasn't convenient for us."

Staff and guests of The Samaritan Centre were more than grateful for the extra assistance from Incontri. The week was so successful that the Executive of Incontri plans to organize another week where students can volunteer again.

If you would like to volunteer for a few hours, a day or more, contact The Samaritan Centre at 673-2163.



Daniele Muscolino / CONTRIBUTOR

Members of Incontri, the Laurentian Italian club on campus, volunteered an entire week of their time to helping the Samaritan Centre soup kitchen in downtown Sudbury. The group did more than just serve food, as seen above, they also helped out with the dirty jobs.

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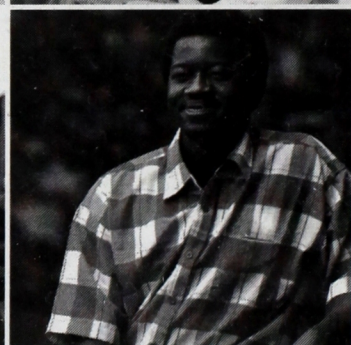


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Lady Vees win two on the road

BY LAUREN LAROCQUE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Laurentian Lady Vees basketball team made it three wins in a row with an impressive 81-73 road victory over the University of Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday, January 19. Cassandra Carpenter, Katie Goggins and Amanda McConnell all scored in double figures in the win that moves the Vees into a tie with U of T for third place in the OUA east division.

The U of T Varsity Blues came out of the gate on fire, taking a seven point first quarter lead. The Vees were able to chip away in the second quarter but still sat four points back at half-time with the Varsity Blues leading 35-31. In the second half the Lady Vees continued to chip away at the U of T lead and eventually took over the game in the fourth quarter thanks to some strong guard play from Carpenter (Kanata, Ont.) and Goggins (Sudbury, Ont.) who finished the game combining for 39 of the Vees 81 points. With the game still in doubt down the stretch fifth year guard Lisa Roberts (Burnaby, B.C.) hit a huge three to clinch the game for the visiting Vees. When the buzzer sounded the Vees finished with an 81-73 victory. Leading the way for the Lady Vees was Carpenter with 26 points and 10 rebounds and Goggins with 13 points.

McConnell (Regina, Sask.), a third year post, had a break out game scoring 10 points while pulling down 13 rebounds. McConnell's 13 boards spearheaded the Vees' ability to out rebound the home side 48-41. The Vees also limited their turnovers, only turning the ball 12 times to the Varsity Blues 17.

"This was a great game for us tonight," said head coach Mike Clarke. "U of T came out strong but we never backed down and were able to pull away down the stretch. We will now look to carry the momentum into tomorrow nights game against Ryerson".

On Saturday, January 20, the Lady Vees made it five wins in their last six regular season games with a 90-63 victory over the Ryerson Rams. The Lady Vees had some outstanding numbers winning the rebounding battle by 31 and shooting an impressive 91 percent from the free-throw line. Three Vees scored in double figures in the victory.

The first half saw the Lady Vees playing in a very tight contest against the 1-13 Rams. Luckily the Vees were able to head into the break with a slight 36-30 lead over the home team. Early in the second half the Vees started a big run that would see them take control of the game and never look back as they outscored the Rams 29-16 in the third quarter and 25-17 in the

fourth quarter en route to a 90-63 victory.

The Vees dominated the glass all game long, finishing the game out-rebounding their opponent 53-22. They also had an impressive night from the free throw line going 31-for-34 from the charity stripe.

Leading the way for the Lady Vees was Carpenter, who poured in a game high 29 points and seven rebounds while going 18-for-19 from the free-throw line. Second year post Darrah Bumstead (New Hamburg, Ont.) had a career night for the Vees reaching career highs in points with 19, rebounds with 17 and going a perfect seven-for-seven from the free-throw line. Rookie point guard Norma-Jean Roberts (Burnaby, B.C.) also had break-out game scoring 13 points including going four-for-five from the field and a perfect four-for-four from the free-throw line.

"It was a really good game for us tonight," said Clarke. "We are excited to finally be getting on a roll and hope to carry this momentum into a difficult road trip to Ottawa next weekend".

Up next for the Lady Vees is a trip to Ottawa where they will challenge the Carleton Ravens on Friday, January 26th and the Ottawa Gee-Gees on Saturday, January 27th. Game time is set for 6 p.m. both days.

ON-LINE SURVEY FOR LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



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Only first-year students and graduating students may participate in the survey which should take about 20 minutes to complete.

For additional information, please visit the NSSE site at www.nsse.iub.edu or contact Claudette Lemire at ext. 3930 or by email at clemire@laurentian.ca.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Once again, Laurentian University is taking part in the National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) in which some 1000 North American Colleges and Universities have participated during the last eight years.

Our President, Dr. Judith Woodsworth, will be emailing you in February inviting you to participate in our 2007 on-line survey.

Survey results establish the changes that Laurentian University needs to implement to improve the overall university experience of our student population.



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SPORTS

Voyageurs drop two on the road

BY LAUREN LAROCQUE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Laurentian Voyageurs basketball team were looking to get into the win column on Friday, January 19; however, the University of Toronto Varsity Blues had another idea, dropping the visiting squad 83-59. Only Lucas Wiebenga scored in double figures for the Voyageurs while the Varsity Blues had three players in double figures.

From the get go the UofT Varsity Blues played stingy defence and forced the Voyageurs into difficult plays. Unfortunately, the Voyageurs were unable to make shots, shooting a dismal 17 percent from the field in the first half and as a result went into the break down 45-16. In the second half the Voyageurs came to life and were able to counter the pressure defence that had stymied them in the first half and were able to win the second half 43-38. Unfortunately, that was not enough as the Blues amassed too large of a lead in the first half. The Voyageurs lost the battle of the boards 42-41, and turned the ball over six more times than the home side. One other significant area was in shooting, where the Varsity Blues shot above 50 percent in all categories, while the Voyageurs shot a poor 31 percent from the field and 33 percent from beyond the arc. The only area where the Voyageurs outdid the Blues was from the free throw line where they hit 60 percent of their shots compared to a 55 percent pace of the Blues. Wiebenga (Tilbury, Ont.) led the way for the Voyageurs tallying 10 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. "There was one bright spot for us tonight and that was on the glass" said head coach Virgil Hill. "Unfortunately, offensive futility caused our trouble tonight".

The Voyageurs were in a

playoff like battle on Saturday, January 20, against the Ryerson Rams, who held the final playoff spot heading into the match up. In a very tight game, the Rams were able to hold off the visiting Voyageurs by four points in a 74-70 victory. Shooting was the Voyageurs' Achilles heel on this occasion, as they shot an abysmal 39% from the field, compared to the Rams' 52%. A futile first half for the Voyageurs led to the Laurentian squad finding themselves down by 10 points at half-time.

Knowing that their playoff chances could benefit astronomically from a victory over the Rams, the Voyageurs came out and played inspired ball in the second. Despite being unable to find their top gear offensively, the Voyageurs outscored the Rams in the second, but only by 6 points leaving them down by 4 at the final buzzer. "We just couldn't get on track offensively," said Hill. "We took more shots than

they did, but our percentage was so poor that we couldn't keep up".

Leading scorers for the Voyageurs were Brody Bishop (Prince Rupert, B.C.) who collected 12 points. Lucas Wiebenga (Tilbury, Ont.) picked up 10 points, 7 rebounds and 5 steals, while Ryan Vetrie (Victoria, B.C.) also had 10 points and pulled down 3 rebounds.

With the loss, the Voyageurs fall 4 points behind the Rams for the final playoff spot in the OUA East division. With 8 games remaining, the Laurentian squad will have an uphill battle if they hope to make the first round of playoff action.

The Voyageurs will travel to the Ottawa next weekend to battle the number seven ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees and the top ranked Carleton Ravens. Game time on Friday is set for 8 p.m. against the Ravens, and 8 p.m. on Saturday against the Gee-Gees.

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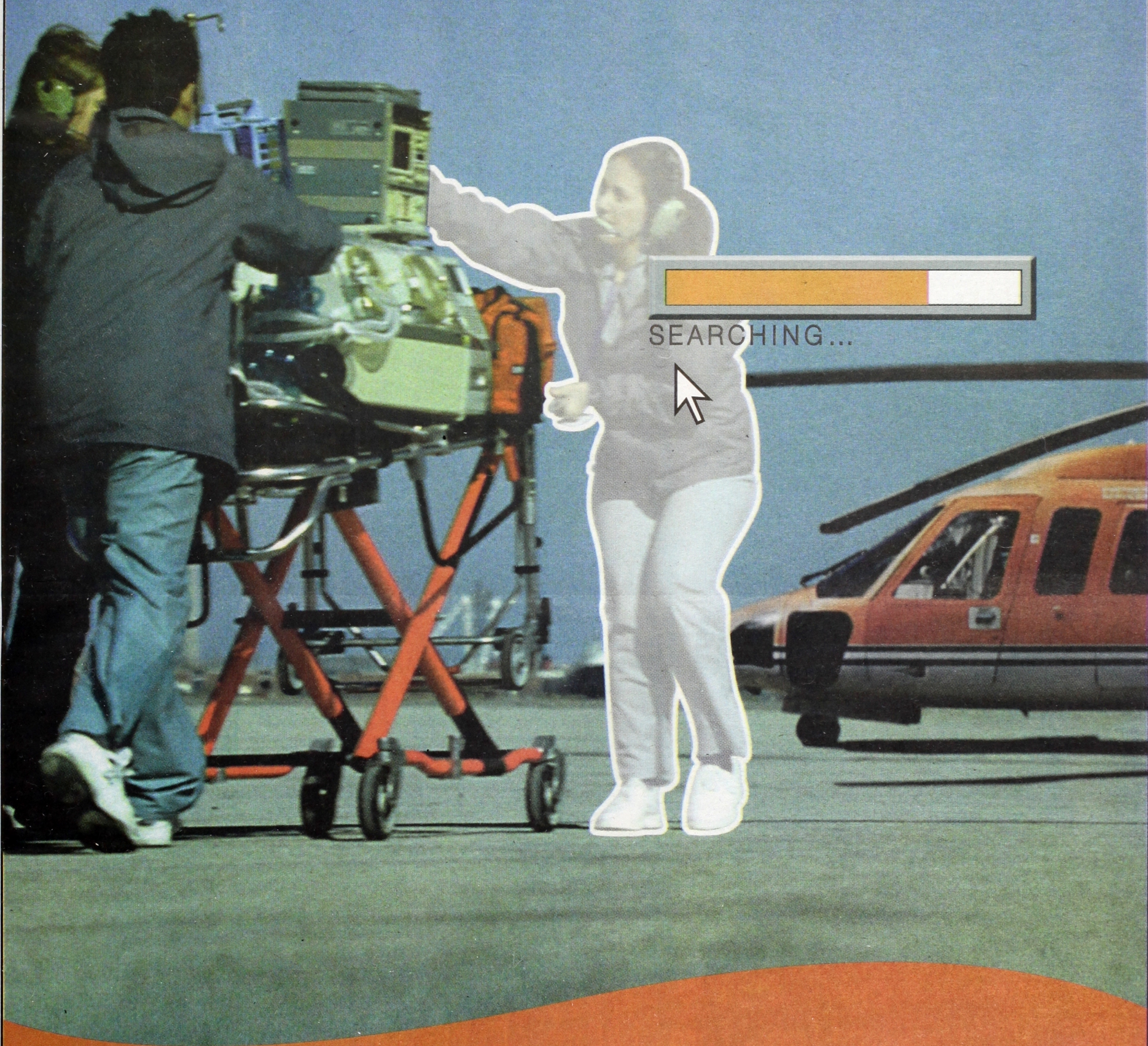
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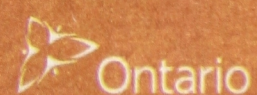
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